

**THE CLAIMED INVENTION IS:**

(1) A process for making plastic badges comprising the steps of:

(a) removably applying a sheet of backing material to a plastic plate made of a card material;

5 (b) providing means for forming contours of a desired shape for at least one segment of said plastic plate;

(c) kiss cutting through the thickness of said plastic plate without cutting said sheet of backing material applied in step (a) whereby said sheet of backing material holds said segment in place in said plastic plate;

10 (d) running said plate which is cut in step (c) through a card printer; and

(e) peeling said sheet of backing material away from said plastic plate, thereby freeing said badge segment.

(2) The process of claim 1 and the further step of providing thermal  
15 debossible material of use in step (a), said sheet of backing material being release paper applied to the back of said thermal debossible material.

(3) The process of claim 2 and the further step of forming an image on said plastic plate of card material in order to provide a partially customized badge for further manufacture in step (d).

20 (4) The process of claim 3 wherein said step of forming said image is carried out between steps (a) and (c).

(5) The process of claim 3 wherein said step of forming said image is carried out between steps (c) and (d).

(6) The process of either claim 4 or claim 5 wherein said step of forming said image includes at least one step selected from a group consisting of printing, forming a depression, forming a textured surface, forming a logo, silk screening, or hot stamping.

5 (7) The process of claim 1 and the added step of applying a finding to mount said badge segment.

(8) The process of claim 7 wherein said finding is selected from a group consisting of pin backs, alligator clips, and jump rings.

(9) The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of adding a rigid base adhered to said backing material during step (d).

10 (10) A process using card printers adapted to receive cards of a fixed size and shape for printing graphic material on a card having a unique size and shape which is not said fixed size and shape, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a laminate of card materials in said fixed size and shape with at least one layer temporarily coupled to another layer by a release means;

15 (b) cutting said one layer into segments having said unique size and shape without cutting said other layer, said other layer temporarily holding said segments of said one layer in place, whereby said one layer retains said fixed size and shape;

(c) running said card of step (b) through a card printer; and

20 (d) peeling away and separating said segments from said card after it has passed through said card printer.

(11) The process of claim 10 wherein said one layer is a thermally debossible material, and the further step of customizing said card by performing at least one step

selected from a group consisting of thermally debossing said one layer, forming a textured area on said one layer, applying transparent tape with graphics to said textured area, depressing an aligning area, applying a sticker to said depressed area, and applying a logo to said card.

5           (12) The process of claim 11 and the further step of adding finding means for attaching said badge to a suitable supporting structure.

          (13) The process of claim 10 wherein said laminate comprises at least one layer of a rigid base material attached to the bottom of said laminate during step (c).

          (14) The process of claim 10 wherein said laminate of step (a) comprises a  
10 flexible material having a printable front and exposed surface thereon, a first adhesive layer on the back of said flexible layer, a layer of backing material on a back of said adhesive material, a second layer of adhesive material on the back of said backing material, and a rigid base material adhered to a said second adhesive material.

          (15) The process of claim 14 wherein said second layer is a pressure sensitive  
15 adhesive and a surface of said rigid base material has a release surface therein.

          (16) A process for converting plastic plates of a standard size and shape into segments of unique size and shapes for use by equipment which can only handle plates of said standard size and shape, said process comprising the steps of:

          (a) providing said plastic plate with a securing layer of means for  
20 retaining the standard size and shape of said plastic plate;

          (b) kiss cutting said plastic plate to form at least one segment thereof without cutting said securing layer whereby said cut plastic plate retains said standard size and shape;

(c) processing said segment produced by said kiss cut of step (b) by use of said equipment; and

(d) removing said segment from said plastic plates.

(17) A product made by the process of any one of the claims 1 or 10 or 16.